Behold the 30-year journey of a baby named Colton Phillips, who was diagnosed with brain cancer and needed blood transfusions. Despite the challenge, Colton's family became inspirations for others to give blood, including an Idaho family that raised awareness of blood donation in February. This year, the Phillips family celebrates the 30th anniversary of their baby's arrival. They encourage people to donate blood and share their story to inspire others.

**Paying back the gift of life**

Thirty years ago, Gale and Jim Phillips’ infant son Colton was in an Oakland hospital fighting for his life. Now, three decades and countless blood transfusions later, Colton is doing well, and his parents are organizing a Red Cross blood drive in February in Idaho City to raise awareness of the profound impact blood donors have on families like theirs.

Colton’s story is an inspiration for others to give blood, and the Phillips family is ready to share their experience. They encourage people to join them in giving the gift of life.

The Phillips family is organizing a Red Cross blood drive in February in Idaho City to raise awareness of the profound impact blood donors have on families like theirs. They encourage people to give the gift of life.

**30 years ago, their baby needed lifesaving blood.**

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**IN MEMORIAM**

Longtime Red Cross volunteer Dave Fish of Greenleaf, Idaho, passed away in January. Dave wore many Red Cross hats, including as a Service to the Armed Forces volunteer, transportation specialist and longtime blood donor. Services will be held Feb. 16 at 10:30 a.m. at Valley Shepherd Church of the Nazarene in Marsall. Read more about Dave and his service here.

**VOLUNTEER SURVEY**

Celebrating your Red Cross anniversary this quarter? If so, then watch for a Volunteer Satisfaction Survey. It will arrive via email with the subject line “We need your input” and helps us understand what we are doing well and where we can improve.

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**MILESTONES**

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**Red Cross gives partners a boost**

As Red Cross prepared for a renovation of its Great Falls Blood Donation Center and offices, local nonprofits got a helping hand along the way. During the height of the COVID pandemic, Red Cross built up a large stock of sanitation supplies like wipes, bleach and hand sanitizer, supplies that didn’t have a home as they cleaned out their facilities in anticipation of the remodel. That’s when Great Falls freight and maintenance tech Rick Baker and volunteer Angela James reached out to the Maclean Animal Adoption Center and the Great Falls Animal Shelter to see if they could put these supplies to good use. Both facilities raised their hands. "They said they could use them to clean out their kennels," Rick said. "They were very, very appreciative.”

Red Cross also had office furniture that needed to be removed, and Habitat for Humanity was the perfect fit. District Manager Carmen Madsen helped make that happen. This was a great example of staff going above and beyond and caring about the community," said Wendy McGrew, the regional chief operating officer.

**Satisfaction Survey**

We need your input! Celebrating your Red Cross anniversary this quarter? If so, then watch for a Volunteer Satisfaction Survey. It will arrive via email with the subject line “We need your input” and helps us understand what we are doing well and where we can improve. We will arrive early to provide feedback.
**RED ALERTS!**

We are thrilled to announce that volunteers Vicky Johns, Scott Fairfield and Teresa Browning were recently nominated for the American Red Cross for their tremendous contributions to the Red Cross.

Vicky, who has been with the organization for a decade, has tallied more than 5,860 hours and wears many Red Cross hats including as a Disaster Action Team coordinator, a regional recovery program lead and Service to the Armed Forces. She lives in Meridian, Idaho. Read more about Vicky’s amazing work here https://rdcrss.org/39NjN2M.

Scott, who lives in Eureka, Montana, has been with the Red Cross for five years and has logged more than 4,800 hours. A Disaster Action Team coordinator, duty officer and Pillowcase presenter, Scott manages to cover multiple counties despite having a small team. Read more about Scott’s accomplishments here https://rdcrss.org/69bPbV2.

Teresa has been with Red Cross for four years and has already volunteered more than 5,860 hours. She lives in Idaho Falls and serves as a Disaster Action Team supervisor, duty officer and emergency response vehicle driver among her many responsibilities.

All three will receive a commemorative coin, a certificate signed by the president and a thank-you letter from the White House.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS**

**GIFT:**

Family thankful for generous donors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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Now age 30, Colton deals with epilepsy and other challenges related to his illness but is doing well and works a couple of hours each week at the local library. He plans to attend the family’s Red Cross blood drive Feb. 21 at the Christian Center in Idaho City.

“He wants to give back to the world that gave him his life,” Gale said. “Colton is in awe that we live in a world where we’re able to do this kind of stuff.”

Gale and Jim Phillips with Colton when he was a baby.

**RED CROSS NEWS & HAP PENINGS**

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